

Notice of Service of Process

null / ALL Transmittal Number: 23309360

Date Processed: 06/07/2021

Primary Contact: Tanya Flores

Midland Credit Management, Inc.

350 Camino de La Reina

Ste 100

San Diego, CA 92108-3007

Electronic copy provided to: Krista Yerby

Entity: Midland Credit Management, Inc

Entity ID Number 1682419

Entity Served: Midland Credit Management, Inc.

Title of Action: Linda Vorek vs. Midland Credit Management, Inc.

Matter Name/ID: Linda Vorek vs. Midland Credit Management, Inc. (11296125)

Document(s) Type: Notice and Complaint

Nature of Action: Violation of State/Federal Act

Court/Agency: Warren County Court of Common Pleas, PA

20 Days

Case/Reference No: 122

Jurisdiction Served: Kansas

Date Served on CSC: 06/04/2021 **Answer or Appearance Due:**

Originally Served On: CSC

How Served: Certified Mail

Sender Information: Eugene D. Frank

412-366-4276

Information contained on this transmittal form is for record keeping, notification and forwarding the attached document(s). It does not constitute a legal opinion. The recipient is responsible for interpreting the documents and taking appropriate action.

To avoid potential delay, please do not send your response to CSC

251 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, Delaware 19808-1674 (888) 690-2882 | sop@cscglobal.com

	2 Supreme Contror Renna	syivaina				
	Court of Common Ple Civil Cover Sheet Warren	as County	For Prothonotary Use Docket:No: 12		7 ₄ ,	E.S _{UARP}
	The information collected on this for supplement or replace the filing and s	rm is used solely for service of pleadings o	court administration or other papers as req		This form doe or rules of co	
S	Commencement of Action: Complaint Writ of Summ Transfer from Another Jurisdiction	nons 🔲	Petition Declaration of Taking			
S E C T	Lead Plaintiff's Name: Linda Vorek		Lead Defendant's Name Midland Funding L	LC et al.	75	-
] [0]	Are money damages requested?	¥Yes □ No	Dollar Amount Rec (check one)		within arbitrax outside arbitra	
Ň	Is this a Class Action Suit?	□Yes ⊠ No	Is this an MDJ	Appeal?	☐ Yes	⊠ No
A	Name of Plaintiff/Appellant's Attorney: Eugene D. Frank, Esquire Check here if you have no attorney (are a Self-Represented [Pro Se] Litigant)					
	Nature of the Case: Place an "X" to the left of the ONE case category that most accurately describes your PRIMARY CASE. If you are making more than one type of claim, check the one that you consider most important.					
SECTION B	TORT (do not include Mass Tort) Intentional Malicious Prosecution Motor Vehicle Nuisance Premises Liability Product Liability (does not include mass tort) Slander/Libel/ Defamation Other: FDCPA claims MASS TORT Asbestos Tobacco Toxic Tort - DES Toxic Tort - Implant Toxic Waste Other: Other: Legal Medical Other Professional:	Ground Rent Landlord/Tena Mortgage Fore	n: Credit Card n: Other Dispute: n Dispute: Other	Board Board Dept. of Statuto Zoning Other: Comm Declar Manda Non-D	ANEOUS on Law/Statute atory Judgment mus comestic Relationing Order Varranto	ory Arbitration

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF WARREN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Linda Vorek,

122

Plaintiff,

TYPE OF PLEADING:

Complaint

NO:

VS.

Midland Credit Management, Inc. and Midland Funding LLC,

Defendants.

FILED ON BEHALF OF: Linda Vorek, Plaintiff

COUNSEL OF RECORD: Eugene D. Frank, Esquire PA ID # 89862

3202 McKnight East Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15237 (412) 366-4276 (office) (412) 366-4305 (fax) efrank@edf-law.com

Linda Vorek,	Case No.
Plaintiff,	
VS.	
Midland Credit Management, Inc. and Midland Funding LLC,	
Defendants.	

NOTICE TO DEFEND

You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this complaint and notice are served, by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint or for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW. THIS OFFICE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT HIRING A LAWYER.

IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER, THIS OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCIES THAT MAY OFFER LEGAL SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS AT A REDUCED FEE OR NO FEE.

PA Lawyer Referral Services
PA Bar Association
100 South Street
Harrisburg, PA 17108
Phone (800) 692-7375

Northwestern Legal Services First Niagara Bldg., 4th Floor 315 Second Ave., Suite 401 Warren, PA 16365 Phone (800) 665-6957

Linda Vorek,	Case No.
Plaintiff,	
Vs.	-
Midland Credit Management, Inc. and Midland Funding LLC,	
Defendants.	

COMPLAINT

AND NOW, comes the Plaintiff, Linda Vorek, by and through her undersigned counsel, and files this Complaint, and in support thereof avers as follows:

Jurisdiction and Venue

- 1. Jurisdiction of this Court *generally* arises out of, but not limited to, the Defendants' violation(s) of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. (hereinafter referred to as "FDCPA"), which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, false, deceptive, misleading and/or unfair practices.
- 2. At all relevant times herein, Defendants, Midland Credit Management, Inc. and Midland Funding LLC (collectively the "Defendants"), were engaged in the collection of delinquent consumer debts within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including the County of Warren.
- 3. Venue is proper in Warren County, Pennsylvania pursuant to Pa. R.C.P. No. 2179(a)(2) and/or 2179(a)(3).

<u>Parties</u>

- 4. At all times mentioned herein, Plaintiff, Linda Vorek (the "Plaintiff"), was a natural person, consumer, and citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, County of Warren.
- 5. At all relevant times herein, Plaintiff was allegedly obligated to pay a defaulted consumer debt as specifically set forth herein (the "Debt").
- 6. Defendant, Midland Credit Management, Inc. ("MCM"), is a corporation established in the State of Kansas with a business address located at 350 Camino De La Reina, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92108.
- 7. MCM conducts business and/or attempts to collect delinquent consumer debts throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including the County of Warren.
 - 8. MCM's principal purpose is the collection of delinquent debts.
- 9. MCM is a servicer of Midland Funding LLC ("MF") consumer accounts and regularly attempts to collect related delinquent consumer debts for MF via phone calls to consumers and collection letters to consumers amongst other collection tactics.
- 10. MF is a limited liability company established in the State of Delaware with a business address located at 350 Camino De La Reina, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92108.
- 11. MF conducts business and/or attempts to collect delinquent consumer debts throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including the County of Warren.
 - 12. MF's principal purpose is the collection of delinquent debts.
- 13. MF's sole business is the purchasing of delinquent consumer debts with the purpose of attempting to collect on those debts by way of dunning collection letters sent to the consumers, collection telephone calls made to the consumers or third parties in an

attempt to locate said consumers, filing collection lawsuits against consumers in various courts of law, and/or by reporting the delinquent debts to the credit bureaus.

- 14. MCM and MF are affiliated companies sharing common owners, officers, members, managers, attorneys, and/or employees as well as addresses, phone numbers, consumer files, and/or databases.
- 15. MCM and MF operate with one another and share information in their efforts to purchase and collect on delinquent consumer debts.
- 16. MF does not issue credit and/or charge accounts or otherwise extend credit to consumers.
- 17. At all times mentioned herein, MF directed and/or authorized MCM to act as its agent in the attempts to collect the relevant consumer debt.
- 18. Defendants are "debt collectors" as defined in the FDCPA and, at all times relevant herein, acted by and/or through their owners, managers, officers, shareholders, authorized representatives, partners, employees, agents, affiants, attorneys, affiliates and/or workmen.
- 19. MF is vicariously liable for the actions of MCM as well as any other agents or attorneys assigned and/or hired to collect the relevant debt.
- 20. Defendants (individually and/or collectively) regularly engage in collecting delinquent consumer debts and regularly use the mails and/or the telephone in an attempt to collect, directly or indirectly, delinquent consumer debts allegedly owed or due or asserted to be owed or due another.

Factual Allegations

- 21. At all relevant times herein, the related delinquent and disputed consumer debt was a Credit One Bank, N.A. account with an alleged balance incurred by Plaintiff in the amount of \$1,893.04 (the "Debt").
- 22. At all relevant times herein, the Debt was a consumer debt as defined in the FDCPA.
- 23. The Debt was incurred based on purchases related to and/or used primarily for personal, family and/or household purposes, including, but not limited to, personal retail purchases.
 - 24. No part of the Debt was related to business transactions.
 - 25. Prior to 2016, the Debt went into default for nonpayment.
 - 26. No payments were made on the Debt by Plaintiff in 2016 or thereafter.
- 27. The statute of limitations began to run on any claim related to the Debt from the time the cause of action accrued.
- 28. Plaintiff did not toll, extend, or otherwise renew the statute of limitations in any manner.
- 29. As a result, and pursuant to 42 Cons. Stat. § 5525, the statute of limitations had expired with respect to Plaintiff before March of 2020, and likely significantly earlier.
- 30. Despite the Debt being time-barred, on March 31, 2020, MF via its inhouse attorneys commenced legal action against Plaintiff in Magisterial District Court 37-4-01 at Case Number CV-0000018-2020 in an attempt to collect the Debt (the "Lawsuit"). A true and correct copy of the Lawsuit docket is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit "A." All pleadings and/or other documents filed within the Lawsuit are incorporated herein by reference.

- 31. On or about April 23, 2020, Plaintiff notified the Magisterial District Court of her intent to defend against the Lawsuit.
- 32. Thereafter, on April 24, 2020, Plaintiff via her attorney notified Defendants (via certificate of mailing) and Defendants' in-house counsel (via certified mail) that Plaintiff was represented by counsel and that Defendants were pursuing.
- 33. The aforementioned notice of representation was received by Defendants on April 27, 2020 as evidenced by the certified mailing.
- 34. Despite knowing Plaintiff was represented by an attorney, Defendants knowing these facts nonetheless mailed or, caused to be mailed, directly to Plaintiff a collection letter on or about May 1, 2020 in an attempt to collect the Debt (the "Collection Letter").
- 35. As a result of a calendar error, Plaintiff's attorney did not attend the rescheduled hearing in the Lawsuit and a default judgment was entered in favor of MF (no decision was made on the merits), which was timely appealed to the Court of Common Pleas of Warren County, Pennsylvania at Case Number 2020-00279 (the "Appeal"). A true and correct copy of the Appeal docket is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit "B." All pleadings and/or other documents filed within the Lawsuit are incorporated herein by reference.
- 36. Thereafter, MF has intentionally and/or with a reckless disregard parked the Appeal as indicated in the "Answer To Plaintiff's Complaint And New Matter" filed in the Appeal.
- 37. Defendants were placed on notice multiple times that they were pursuing a time-barred Lawsuit/Appeal given the statute of limitations had expired prior to the Lawsuit being filed.

- 38. The Appeal remains pending with MF taking no action to move it forward or file a discontinuance rendering its action dilatory, obdurate and/or vexatious conduct.
- 39. Defendants actions have caused Plaintiff unnecessary stress, anxiety, worry, and annoyance.

Causes of Action Count I Violations of the FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.

- 40. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 41. There is abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair collection practices by many debt collectors. Abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, marital instability and invasions of individual privacy.
- 42. The FDCPA was enacted, in part, due to existing laws and/or procedures being inadequate for redressing the types of injuries as set forth herein.
- 43. Defendants knew or should have known that their actions violated the FDCPA.
- 44. Defendants are subject to strict liability for their actions in attempting to collect the Debt as set forth herein.
- 45. Defendants could have taken steps necessary to bring their actions within FDCPA compliance, but neglected to do so and failed to adequately review their actions to ensure compliance with the law.
- 46. Because the list is non-exhaustive, a debt collection practice can be deemed a false, deceptive, materially misleading, or unfair practice even if it does not fall within any of the subsections of Sections 1692d, 1692e, and/or 1692f of the FDCPA.

- 47. MF violated the FDCPA when it knew or should have known the Debt was time-barred prior to filing the Lawsuit and continued the Lawsuit and Appeal thereafter with complete disregard to Plaintiff's rights.
- 48. MF also violated the FDCPA when it parked the Appeal as indicated in the "Answer To Plaintiff's Complaint And New Matter" filed in the Appeal.
- 49. Defendants also violated the FDCPA by directly communicating with Plaintiff via the Collection Letter when they knew or should have known Plaintiff was represented by an attorney.
- 50. The conduct of Defendants, their agents, servants, representatives, managers, attorneys and/or employees, as described herein was improper, misleading, deceptive, abusive, harassing and/or unfair collection practices in violation(s) of the FDCPA's communication in connection with debt collection practices at 15 U.S.C. § 1692c, harassment and abuse collection practices at 15 U.S.C. § 1692d, deceptive collection practices at 15 U.S.C. § 1692e, and/or unfair collection practices at 15 U.S.C. § 1692f.
- 51. As a result of Defendants' violation(s) of the FDCPA, Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages, statutory damages and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.
- 52. Plaintiff has experienced aggravation, anxiety, annoyance, embarrassment, fear, inconvenience, worry, and/or stress as a direct and proximate result of Defendants' actions.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully demands that this Court enter a judgment against Defendants in excess of the arbitration limits for the following:

- (a) Actual damages;
- (b) Statutory damages;

- (c) Attorneys' fees, litigation expenses and costs of suit;
- (d) Such other and further relief that this Court deems just and proper.

Plaintiff, Linda Vorek, demands a trial by jury if removed or appealed as to all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

Law Offices of Eugene D. Frank, P.C.

Ву: _

Eugene D. Frank, Esquire

PA ID No. 89862

3202 McKnight East Drive

Pittsburgh, PA 15237

(412) 366-4276 - office

(412) 366-4305 – fax

efrank@edf-law.com

Linds VI 1	
Linda Vorek,	Case No.
Plaintiff,	
Vs.	
Midland Credit Management, Inc. and Midland Funding LLC,	
Defendants.	

VERIFICATION

I, Eugene D. Frank, attorney for Plaintiff, Linda Vorek, am fully familiar with the facts set forth in the within *Complaint* and am authorized to make this Verification on behalf of Plaintiff. I verify that the averments of fact contained in the foregoing *Complaint* are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief based on the information supplied by Plaintiff, Defendants, and/or Public Records. Plaintiff's verification will be substituted for this attorney verification upon written request.

Dated: March 25, 2021

Eugene D. Frank

Magisterial District Judge 37-4-01



DOCKET

Docket Number: MJ-37401-CV-0000018-2020

Civil Docket

Midland Funding LLC Linda Vorek

Page 1 of 3

Judge Assigned: Claim Amount:

CASE INFORMATION Magisterial District Judge Todd A. Woodin

03/31/2020

Judgment Amount:

\$1,495.93 \$1,609,18 File Date: Case Status:

County:

CALENDAR EVENTS

Inactive Warren

Case Calendar Event Type

Schedule

Start Time

Judge Name

Schedule Status

Civil Action Hearing

Start Date 05/01/2020

Room

Magisterial District Judge Todd

Continued

Civil Action Hearing

07/06/2020

11:00 am

10:15 am

Magisterial District Judge Todd

Scheduled

A. Woodin

A. Woodin

Participant Type

Participant Name Defendant Vorek, Linda

CASE PARTICIPANTS **Address**

Plaintiff

Midland Funding LLC

Tidoute, PA 163511206 Philadelphia, PA 19113

DISPOSITION SUMMARY

Docket Number MJ-37401-CV-0000018-2020 Constitution of the second

<u>Plaintiff</u>

Defendant Midland Funding LLC Linda Vorek

Disposition Judgment for Plaintiff CIVIL DISPOSITION / JUDGMENT DETAILS

Disposition Date 07/06/2020

Disposition Date: 07/06/2020

Monthly Rent: \$0,00

Defendant(s) Linda Vorek

Plaintiff(s) Midland Funding LLC

Disposition Judgment for Plaintiff Joint/Several **Liability**

\$0.00

<u>Individual</u> Liability \$1,609,18

Net Judgment \$1,609.18

Judgment Components:

Type Civil Judgment Filing Fees

Amount \$1,495.93 \$113.25

Deposit Amount \$0.00

\$0.00

Adjusted Amount \$1,495,93 \$113.25

* Is Joint/Several

MDJS 1200

Printed: 03/25/2021 3:53 pm

Recent entries made in the court filing offices may not be immediately reflected on these docket sheets . Neither the courts of the Unified Judicial System of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania nor the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts assumes any ilability for inaccurate or delayed data, errors or omissions on these docket sheets. You should verify that the information is accurate and current by personally consulting the official record reposing in



Magisterial District Judge 37-4-01

DOCKET

Docket Number: MJ-37401-CV-0000018-2020

Civil Docket



Midland Funding LLC v.
Linda Vorek

Page 2 of 3

Private

Name: Daniel Santucci, Esq.

Representing: Midland Funding LLC

Counsel Status: Active - Entry of Appearance

<u>Supreme Court No.:</u> 092800 <u>Phone No.:</u> 866-300-8750

Address:

Midland Funding LLC

1 International Plaza Drive 5th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19113

Entry of Appearance Filed Dt: 03/31/2020 Withdrawal of Entry of Appearance Filed Dt:

Private

Name: Eugene David Frank, Esq. Representing: Vorek, Linda

Counsel Status: Active - Entry of Appearance

Supreme Court No.: 089862

Phone No.:

Address:

Law Offices of Eugene D. Frank P.C. Attorney At

Law

3202 McKnight East Dr Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Entry of Appearance Filed Dt: 04/29/2020 Withdrawal of Entry of Appearance Filed Dt: Delvoto

ATTORNEY INFORMATION

Name: Stephanie Hernandez, Esq. Representing: Midland Funding LLC

Counsel Status: Active - Entry of Appearance

<u>Supreme Court No.:</u> 324731 <u>Phone No.:</u> 866-300-8750

Address: Midland Funding LLC

1 International Plaza Drive 5th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19113

Entry of Appearance Filed Dt: 03/31/2020
Withdrawal of Entry of Appearance Filed Dt:

1 : 0		DOCKET ENTRY INFORMATION :-	
Filed Date 07/27/2020	Entry Civil Appeal Filed	Filer Linda Vorek	Applies to
07/06/2020	Judgment for Plaintiff	Magisterial District Court 37-4-01	Midland Funding LLC, Plaintiff Linda Vorek, Defendant
07/06/2020 04/29/2020	Judgment Entered Entry of Appearance Filed	Magisterial District Court 37-4-01	Linda Vorek, Defendant
04/23/2020	Intent to Defend Filed	Eugene David Frank, Esq. Linda Vorek	Linda Vorek, Defendant
04/15/2020	Certified Civil Complaint Accepted	Magisterial District Court 37-4-01	Linda Vorek, Defendant Linda Vorek, Defendant
03/31/2020 03/31/2020	Certified Civil Complaint Issued	Magisterial District Court 37-4-01	Linda Vorek, Defendant
03/31/2020	Entry of Appearance Filed Civil Complaint Filed	Daniel Santucci, Esq.	Midland Funding LLC, Plaintiff
	OM Odripiant Filed	Midland Funding LLC	

MDJS 1200

Page 2 of 3

Printed: 03/25/2021 3:53 pm

Recent entries made in the court filing offices may not be immediately reflected on these docket sheets. Neither the courts of the Unified Judicial System of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania nor the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts assumes any liability for inaccurate or delayed data, errors or omissions on these docket sheets. You should verify that the information is accurate and current by personally consulting the official record reposing in the court wherein the record is maintained.

Magisterial District Judge 37-4-01

DOGKETA STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY

Civil Docket

Docket Number: MJ-37401-CV-0000018-2020

Midland Funding LLC Linda Vorek

Page 3 of 3

MDJS 1200

Page 3 of 3

Printed: 03/25/2021 3:53 pm



Warren County, Pennsylvania Prothonotary

Log Off

© 2018 INFOCON CORPORATION, All Rights Reserved

3/25/2021 - 3:54 PM

Functions ENTER DONE EXIT PDF CASE PRINT E-MAIL CASE PRINT

BACK

Prothonotary - Inquiry - Dockets Entries Case No: 2020-00279 Filed Date/Time: 07/20/2020 Case Type: CIVIL APPEALS - JUDICIAL: OTHER 1:43 Caption: MIDLAND FUNDING LLC (vs) LINDA VOREK Position to Date: 100/00/0000 Port



Linda Vorek,	Case No.
Plaintiff,	
vs.	
Midland Credit Management, Inc. and Midland Funding LLC,	
Defendants.	·

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Submitted by: Law Offices of Eugene D. Frank, P.C.

Signature:

Name: Eugene D Frank

Attorney No. PA ID # 89862

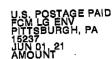


7020 1290 0001 2041 0261



1000







LAW OFFICES OF EUGENE D. FRANK 3202 McKnight East Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Midland Credit Management, Inc. c/o Corporation Service Company 2900 SW Wanamaker Drive, Suite 204 Topeka, Kansas 66614

